Impact of Decontrol Steel

6285. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the main functions entrusted to Joint Plant Committee and the office of the Iron and Steel Controller, Calcutta in the wake of the recent steel decontrol;

(b) the estimated expenditure incurred annually on the maintenance of these two organisations;

(c) whether there is any likelihood of the retrenchment of the staff of the two organisations; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to rehabilitate them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV). (a) The main function of the Joint Plant Committee (JPC) and the Offices of Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel (DCI&S) are at statements I&II.

(b) The estimated expenditures incurred on JPC and the Office of Development Commissioner for Iron & Steel (DCI & S) for 1991-92 are as followed:

1991-92	DCT&S	-	Rs 150 00 Lakhs.
	JPC		Rs 225 00 Lakhs

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise

STATEMENT-I

FUNCTIONS OF THE JOINT PLANT COMMITTEE

1 The Joint Plant Committee shall be responsible for carrying out generally the functions of co-ordination the demand and the supplies of all or any of the categories of iron or steel produced by the member steel plants in respect of Defence, Railways, Small Scale Industries Sector, the Exporters of Engineering Goods and the North Eastern Region, and shall also assist the Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel in ensuring supplis thereof on priority in terms of the Distribution Guidelines.

2 The Committee may obtain from producers, processors, dealer and consumers of iron and steel such information and data as it may require in discharging the functions specified under this Notification as well as for maintaining a comprehensive data base in respect of any matter including production, movement and prices It may also from such statistical and other units as may be necessary for the discharge of its functions

3 The Committee may evolve suitable organisation, methods and procedures to review carefully the general market situation, fluctuations in free market prices, the trends of production, availability and movement of iron and steel, and for this purpose, the Committee shall arrange for effective and timely flow of information from all concerned,

including the iron and steel plant.

4. The Committee may from time to time require the member steel plants to add the elements listed below to their ex-works prices fo all or any of the categories of iron and steel and to remit the same to the Committee within such periods as may by specified:

(i) an element of price towards price towards the Steel Development Fund for financing schemes, projects and other capital expenditures for modernisation research and development, rehabilitation, diversification, renewals and replacements, balancing additions to capacity, major new investments or any other programme for improving the guantum or technology or efficiency of production of Iron and Steel or their quality;

Explanation: The Committee shall perform its functions relating to the Steel Development Fund in accordance with and subject to such orders or directions as may be issued by the Central Government in this behalf from the time to time.

(ii) an element of price for enabling the Committee to discharge its functions and to implement specific schemes entrusted to it by the Central Government;

(iii) an element of price towards the Engineering Goods Export Assistances Funds.

STATEMENT-II

Present functions of the Offices of the Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel

With deregulation of distribution and pricing of iron and steel, the major functions of the Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel are as follows:

(a) Collection, processing and dissemination of basic information relating to the iron and steel industry and to actas the data bank of the Ministry of Steel;

(b) Monitoring of regional price and supply trends and suggesting to the Ministry the remedial measures for correcting the imbalances, if any;

(c) Clearances in respect of import and export of iron and steel materials and their monitoring;

(d) Advice on matters relating to import and export policies of iron and steel.

(e) Management of distribution of iron ans steel materials to the newly designated priority sector such as Defence, Railways, State Small Industries Corporations, Engineering Goods and the North-Eastern States;

(f) Allocation of materials to the State Small Scale Industries Corporations;

(g) Allocation of material to remote area like North Eastern State, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep Islands;

(h) Assistance to Engineering Goods Export units through priority allocations and monitoring thereof;

(i) Operation of the Engineering

Goods Export Assistance Fund and the Steel Development Fund.

(j) Rendering assistance to the Electric are furnace for units and the secondary sector by way of capacity assessment, assistance in procurement of indigenous and imported raw materials and import substitution measures, aiming at the overall development of the sector.

(k) Interface between the Government and the different consumer group and to facilitate consumer-producer interaction;

(l) Matters relating to Export of Steel to Napal and Bhutan;

(m) Coordination for movement of raw material to steel plants;

(n) Provide vigilance functions to prevent misuse of steel obtained from regulated sources.

Publishing of Biographies of Freedom Fighters

6286. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to publish the biographies of prominent Indian freedom fighters who were deported to the Andaman and Nicobar Jail;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to telecast and broadcast programmes on those freedom fighters; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, at present, has no such specific proposal.

(b) and (c). Programmes on various national leaders are telecast/broadcast by Doordarshan/All India Radio from time to time depending on their programme requirement.

Metro Channel

6287. SHRI B. DEVARAJAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government propose to "create metro channel" to link the second channels of the Doordarshan in four metropolitan kendras at Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b). Doordarshan have been interlinking the four metro channels for varying durations of time keeping in mind their over all programme requirements for quite some time now.

[*Translation*]

Irregularities in Regional Publicity Directorate

6288. SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of irregularities committed in regional Publicity Directorate during the last three years;

(b) the details of such irregularities; and

(c) the punishment awarded to the erring officials?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE